

CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying excess noise in a computer system comprising the steps of:
- recording a silence sample;
  - recording an isolated noise sample while operating a computer system component in isolation from other computer system components;
  - comparing signal characteristics of said silence sample with signal characteristics of said isolated noise sample; and,
  - attributing said isolated noise sample to said isolated computer component when said signal characteristics of said silence sample differ by a preset threshold from said signal characteristics of said isolated noise sample.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- logging said signal characteristics of said silence sample and said isolated noise sample;
  - reporting excess noise identified in said identifying step; and,
  - suggesting a remedy for said identified excess noise.
3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- creating a list of computer system components to be tested for excess noise; and,
  - associating with each component in said list a corresponding method for testing said component for excess noise.
4. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
- creating a list of computer system components to be tested for excess noise;
  - first associating with each component in said list a corresponding method for testing said component for excess noise; and,

5 second associating with each component in said list a corresponding remedy  
6 for excess noise identified in said corresponding component.

1 5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said second recording step  
2 comprises for each computer system component in said created list of computer  
3 system components to be tested for excess noise, second recording an isolated  
4 noise sample while operating each said computer system component in said created  
5 list according to said corresponding method.

1 6. A method according to claim 4, wherein said second recording step  
2 comprises for each computer system component in said created list of computer  
3 system components to be tested for excess noise, second recording an isolated  
4 noise sample while operating each said computer system component in said created  
5 list according to said corresponding method, and said suggesting step comprises  
6 suggesting said corresponding remedy for said identified excess noise in each said  
7 computer system component in said created list.

1 7. A computer apparatus programmed with a routine set of instructions stored  
2 in a fixed medium, said computer apparatus comprising:

3 first means for recording a silence sample;

4 second means for recording an isolated noise sample while operating a  
5 computer system component in isolation from other computer system components;

6 means for comparing signal characteristics of said silence sample with signal  
7 characteristics of said isolated noise sample; and,

8 means for identifying excess noise stemming from said isolated computer  
9 system component where said signal characteristics of said silence sample differ by  
10 a preset threshold from said signal characteristics of said isolated noise sample.

1 8. A computer apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:  
2 means for logging said signal characteristics of said silence sample and said  
3 isolated noise sample;  
4 means for reporting excess noise identified by said identifying means; and,  
5 means for suggesting a remedy for said identified excess noise.

1 9. A computer apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:  
2 a list of computer system components to be tested for excess noise; and,  
3 test instructions corresponding to each said computer system component in  
4 said list.

10. A computer apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:  
a list of computer system components to be tested for excess noise;  
test instructions corresponding to each said computer system component in  
said list; and,  
a plurality of suggested remedies for identified excess noise, each said  
suggested remedy corresponding to at least one of said computer system  
components in said list.

11. A computer apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second recording  
means comprises for each computer system component in said list of computer  
system components to be tested for excess noise, means for second recording an  
isolated noise sample while operating each said computer system component in  
said list according to said corresponding test instructions.

12. A computer apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second recording  
means comprises for each computer system component in said list of computer  
system components to be tested for excess noise, means for second recording an

4 isolated noise sample while operating each said computer system component in  
5 said list according to said corresponding test instructions, and said suggesting  
6 means comprises means for suggesting said corresponding suggested remedy for  
7 said identified excess noise in each said computer system component in said list.

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